THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) An analysis of waiting list for Kerala Teleco Circle as on 31-3-2003 is as under :

No. of applicants waiting for less than one year	169491
No. of applicants waiting for 1 -2 years	99762
No. of applicants waiting for 2-3 years	78234
No. of applicants waiting for 3-4 years	69592
No. of applicants waiting for 4-5 years	31005
No. of applicants waiting for more than 5 years	39415
Total	**487499**

Out of total of 4.88 lakh waiting list, 0.86 lakh are in urban areas and 4.02 lakh in rural areas. It is evident that most of this waiting list is scattered in rural areas. BSNL has provided 15.20 lakh rural DELs in Kerala upto 31-03-2003 during the last five years, eventhough provisioning of DELs in the rural areas in un-remunerative. The phone to the other wait listed applicants in rural areas so far could not be possible due to non availability/constraints of funds for this purpose. BSNL has sought reliefs from the Government for providing services in un-remunerative areas. The waiting list in most of the rural areas may be reduced subject to reliefs sought from the Government are made available to BSNL. It may get further reduced if the private operators granted license for basic services commence operations.

(c) During the year 2003-04, BSNL has fixed a Tentative Target of providing 6.21 lakh connections in Kerala Circle on Fixed Line, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS).

Share of IT in GDP

†4987. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 1.7 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product of the country is being spent on Information Technology;

(b) if not Government's assessment in this regard;

† The original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that Information Technology industry has urged to increase this upto three per cent;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) Government's scheme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) estimates, India currently spends about 1.1 per cent of its GDP on Information Technology.

(c) to (e) The Planning Commission has recommended that each Ministry/ Department must allocate 2-3 per cent of its Budget on IT promotion. This is a step for development of domestic software industry and move towards Electronic Governance.

Promotion of small and medium enterprises under STPI

4988. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up ten new Centres in secondary locations in order to promote the small and medium enterprises under the Software Technology Parks of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether any budgetary outlay has been made for the current financial year;

(d) if so, whether the fiscal outlay is sufficient; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken for setting up of these Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The setting up of new centre is based on export potential as well as the State Government's willingness to provide land, built up area and financial support. A list of STPI (Software Technology Parks of India) Centres, under various stages of Implementation is given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below) As of now 39 Centres have been set up all over the country as given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See* below).

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